

Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District

More Project Photos



New Wildlife Habitat



Project Success



2008 Feature Accomplishment

Pleasant Valley Creek

Resource Challenge

A Little Cove property owner realized that his wetland was being degraded by his cattle operation, damaging the vegetation to a point that exclusion was the only viable option to repair the damage. Challenges included providing alternative water for livestock, fencing in very rocky and steep areas, and planting native trees and shrubs in the area.



Little Cove WHIP
Exclusion Project

Project Summary and Results

The Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District (PRLCD) worked with the landowner and the NRCS in planning the project which included designing and implementing the fence construction and off site water system, as well as planting native trees and shrubs. In order to exclude cattle from the creek and preserve wildlife habitat in this steep area, rock drills and rock cribs were needed to construct the fence to meet NRCS specifications. Gates were installed in two locations to allow egress for aggressive cattle. Eight hundred wetland plants and 1,200 native trees and shrubs were planted by the Washington Conservation Corp.

The results of excluding cattle from the 14-acre wetland have been remarkable. In the four months since the project was completed, the vegetation in the excluded area has flourished, even with high summer temperatures and lack of rainfall. Wildlife have discovered the wetland and found refuge from the elements. PRLCD has learned that providing quality areas for wildlife and cattle can be compatible.

Key Project Partners

Natural Resource Conservation Service, Department of Natural Resources,
Washington Conservation Corp

Contact Information

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Ralph Seward, Vice-Chair
Clinton O'Keefe, Secretary
Tracy Eriksen, Auditor
Clark Miller, Member

More Work To Do

- 40,000 feet of marginal pasture riparian fence agreed to install in 2008
- Requests for cost share for 1,500 acres for fall direct seed
- Requests for cost share for 1,200 acres to chop stubble
- Assist in fire damaged CRP tree rehabilitation
- Begin the direct seed outreach, education and mentoring program